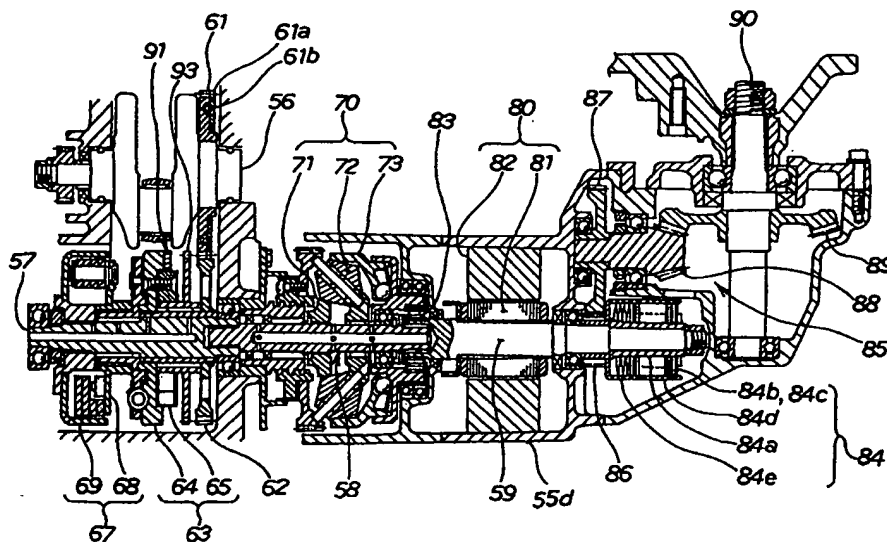




INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 6 : B62M 23/02, B60K 6/02	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 99/14109 (43) International Publication Date: 25 March 1999 (25.03.99)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/JP98/04017 (22) International Filing Date: 8 September 1998 (08.09.98) (30) Priority Data: 9/268077 14 September 1997 (14.09.97) JP (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): HONDA GIKEN KOGYO KABUSHIKI KAISHA [JP/JP]; 1-1, Mi- nami-Aoyama 2-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-8556 (JP). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): MATSUTO, Takushi [JP/JP]; (JP). WACHIGAI, Kaoru [JP/JP]; Honda R & D Co., Ltd., 4-1, Chuo 1-chome, Wako-shi, Saitama 351-0113 (JP). (74) Agent: SHIMODA, Yo-ichiro; Akasaka Grace Building, 3-6, Akasaka 1-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-0052 (JP).	(81) Designated States: AU, BR, CN, ID, KR, US, VN, European patent (BE, CH, DE, ES, FR, GB, IT, NL, SE). Published With international search report.	

(54) Title: MOTORCYCLE WITH HYBRID DRIVE SYSTEM



(57) Abstract

A motorcycle (1) is disclosed wherein a crank shaft (56) is disposed in a lower portion of a power unit case (55), a clutch shaft (57) is disposed in parallel to and higher than the crank shaft (56), and a transmission shaft (58) and an electric motor shaft (59) are disposed in such a manner as to extend from one end of the clutch shaft (57) in a longitudinal (fore and aft) direction of the vehicular body. That is, the clutch shaft (57), transmission shaft (58), and electric motor shaft (59) are disposed in series and also in parallel to and higher than the crank shaft (56). Since the transmission shaft (58) and the electric motor shaft (59) are disposed in series in the longitudinal direction of a vehicular body, the direction of a force applied to the power unit case (55) becomes simple. This makes the designing of the power unit case easy.

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DESCRIPTION

MOTORCYCLE WITH HYBRID DRIVE SYSTEM

5

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates generally to a motorcycle and more particularly to a hybrid motorcycle including an electric motor in addition to an engine.

10

BACKGROUND ART

Vehicles of the type using a gasoline engine as a drive source are chiefly available at present. However, vehicles of the type using an electric motor as a drive source are required at locations where the occurrence of an exhaust gas must be avoided. A motor-driven vehicle, however, has an inconvenience in that it has an increased body weight and a shortened running distance. To cope with such an inconvenience, there is an increased demand that a hybrid vehicle including an electric motor in addition to an engine be developed.

Japanese Patent Laid-Open Publication No. HEI-8-175477, for example, discloses a hybrid motorcycle entitled 'DEVICE FOR SWITCHING ENGINE POWER TO/FROM MOTOR POWER IN MOTORCYCLE OR THE LIKE'.

As shown in Fig. 2 of the above publication, a crank shaft is parallel to an axle, and as shown in Fig. 3, a shaft of a motor is perpendicular to the axle.

To be more specific, according to the related art structure, since the crank shaft extends in the lateral direction of a vehicular body and the shaft of the motor extends in the longitudinal direction of the vehicular body, a transmission case which contains both the crank shaft and the shaft of the motor is applied with forces both in the lateral and longitudinal directions.

Accordingly, the transmission case must be rigid enough to withstand the above forces both in the lateral and longitudinal directions, to thereby not only increase the weight of the transmission case but also cause a loss of transmission in a power transmission system.

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DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a motorcycle capable of lowering a loss of power transmission in a drive force transmission system and reducing
5 the weight of a transmission case, that is, a power unit case.

According to the present invention, there is provided a motorcycle in which a an engine and an electric motor are provided as a power unit and an engine output and an electric motor output are transmitted to a drive wheel through a
10 transmission shaft and an electric motor shaft, respectively, characterized in that the transmission shaft and the electric motor shaft are coaxially disposed in series in the longitudinal direction of a vehicular body and in parallel to a crank shaft of the engine.

15 Since the transmission shaft and the electric motor shaft are disposed in series in the longitudinal direction of the vehicular body, the direction of a force applied to the power unit case becomes simple. This reduces a loss of power transmission and makes designing of the power unit case easy.
20 Concretely, the power unit case can be designed such that rigidity becomes high in the direction of application of the force and rigidity becomes low in the direction of application of the force; consequently, the power unit case can be reduced in weight and also be made compact as a whole in proportion to
25 the simplification of the applied force.

According to an invention defined in claim 2, in addition to the configuration of the invention defined in claim 1, the transmission shaft holds a one-way clutch and a clutch shaft holding a starter one-way clutch and a centrifugal clutch is
30 provided integrally with the transmission shaft.

The clutch shaft is integrally connected to the transmission shaft; the one-way clutch is held by the transmission shaft; and the one-way clutch for a starter and the centrifugal clutch are held by the clutch shaft.

35 According to an invention defined in claim 3, in addition to the configuration of the invention defined in claim 1, the power unit is swingably mounted, together with a rear wheel, on a main frame.

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With this arrangement, since the power unit can be significantly reduced in weight and also the power unit is swung together with the rear wheel, the unsprung weight can be reduced and the steering stability can be enhanced.

5

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Preferred embodiments of the present invention will be described in detail below, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

10 Fig. 1 is a side view of a motorcycle according to the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a sectional side view of a power unit according to the present invention;

15 Fig. 3 is a sectional plan view of the power unit according to the present invention;

Fig. 4 is a view showing a configuration and a function of a cone type continuously variable transmission according to the present invention;

20 Fig. 5 is a view showing a configuration and function of the cone type continuously variable transmission according to the present invention;

Fig. 6 is a view illustrating an engine lubricating system according to the present invention;

25 Fig. 7 is a view illustrating a transmission lubricating system according to the present invention; and

Fig. 8 is a front view of the power unit, showing a cam shaft drive mechanism as a valve drive mechanism according to the present invention.

30

BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

The following description is merely exemplary in nature and is in no way intended to limit the invention or its application or uses.

35 Referring to Fig. 1, a motorcycle 1 has at its lower central portion a box-like main frame 2 serving as a battery containing box. Inverse U-shaped front swing arms 4 extend from a lower front portion of the main frame 2 through a front pivot 3, and a front wheel 5 is rotatably mounted on the front swing arms 4. A

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head pipe post 7 extends obliquely upward from an upper front portion of the main frame 2 and a head pipe 8 is fixed at a leading end of the head pipe post 7. A handle post 9 is rotatably mounted in the head pipe 8, and a steering arm 11 is mounted on a lower end of the handle post 9. A leading end (lower end) of the steering arm 11 is connected to a knuckle 12 mounted on the front wheel 5. A power unit 15 is swingably mounted on an upper rear portion of the main frame 2 through a rear pivot 13. A rear wheel 16 is mounted on the power unit 15. A rear cushion 17 is disposed in front of the rear wheel 16, and an air cleaner 18, an exhaust pipe 19, a muffler 21, and a tail lamp 22 are disposed behind the rear wheel 16. A vehicular body is surrounded by a front fender 25, a front cover 26, a front handle cover 27, a center cowl 28, a rear cowl 29 and a rear fender 31 which are disposed in this order from the front side to the rear side of the vehicular body.

In Fig. 1, reference numeral 30 indicates a stem; 32 is front break disk; 33 is a caliper; 34 is a resin spring; 35 is a front damper; 36 is a leg shield; 37 is a passenger's step; 38 is a side stand; and 39 is a main stand. On an upper side of Fig. 1, reference numeral 41 indicates a horn; 42 is a front lamp; 43 is a handlebar; 44 is a grip; 45 is a baffle duct; 46 is a radiator; 47 is a fan; 48 is a sheet; 49 is a helmet box; 51 is a helmet; 52 is a tail lamp; and 55 is a power unit case.

The power unit case 55 is composed of right and left crank cases 55b and 55a (the right crank case 55b on the back side of the figure is not shown), a transmission case 55c, an electric motor case 55d, and a reduction gear case 55e.

Fig. 2 is a sectional side view of the power unit according to the present invention.

As will be fully described with reference to Fig. 8, the power unit 15 includes a four-cycle engine in which an intake cam shaft and an exhaust cam shaft are provided in a cylinder head. The power unit 15 has a crank shaft 56 disposed in a lower portion of the power unit case 55; a clutch shaft 47 disposed in parallel to and higher than the crank shaft 56; and a transmission shaft 58 and an electric motor shaft 59 disposed in such a manner as to extend from one end of the clutch shaft

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57 in the longitudinal direction (fore and aft) of the vehicular body. That is to say, the clutch shaft 57, transmission shaft 58, and electric motor shaft 59 are disposed in series and also in parallel to and higher than the crank shaft 56.

5 Since the clutch shaft 57, transmission shaft 58, and electric motor shaft 59 are disposed in series in the longitudinal direction of the vehicular body, the direction of a force applied to the power unit case 55 becomes simple. This facilitates the design of the power unit case 55. Concretely,
10 the power unit case 55 can be designed such that the rigidity is high in the direction where the force is applied and the rigidity is low in the direction where the force is not applied; and consequently, the power unit case 55 can be reduced in weight and also be made compact as a whole in proportional to
15 simplification of the force applied to the power unit case 55.

In Fig. 2, reference numeral 75 indicates an epicycle reduction gear; 76 is a potentiometer for detecting a rotational angle of a transmission control motor 95 to be described later; 121 is a cam shaft drive pulley; 78 is a water pump driven by
20 the pulley 121; 79 is a belt cover; and 103a is an oil pump case disposed at a lower central portion of the figure.

The details of components associated with the clutch shaft 57, transmission shaft 58, and electric motor shaft 59 will be fully described with reference to the following figure.

25 Fig. 3 is a sectional plan view of the power unit according to the present invention. The details of the components associated with the clutch shaft, transmission shaft, and electric motor shaft, and the drive force transmission configuration will be described with reference to this figure.

30 The primary driven gear 62 rotatably mounted on the clutch shaft 57 is driven by the primary drive gear 61 mounted on the crank shaft 56. The primary driven gear 62 drives a clutch outer 64 of a one-way clutch 63 for a starter and a clutch inner 68 of the centrifugal clutch 67 independently from the clutch
35 shaft 57. For this purpose, the primary driven gear 62 is connectable to both the clutch outer 64 of the one-way clutch 63 and the clutch inner 68 of the centrifugal clutch 67 by means of a cylindrical member 66. As the centrifugal clutch inner 68 is

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rotated at a rotational speed of a specific value or more, a centrifugal clutch outer 69 is rotated together with the centrifugal clutch inner 68, with a result that the clutch shaft 57 starts to be rotated.

- 5 The above primary drive gear 61 includes a phase difference adjusting sub-gear 61a and a spring 61b for preventing occurrence of gear rattle.

- 10 The transmission 70, which is of a cone type with its function fully described with reference to another figure, transmits a power in the order of the transmission shaft 58 → an inner disk 71 → a cone 72 → an outer cup 73. The rotation of the outer cup 73 is transmitted to the electric motor shaft 59 through a one-way clutch 83.

- 15 The electric motor 80 is of a coreless type, in which a permanent magnet type rotor 81 is mounted on the electric motor shaft 59 and a stator coil 82 is mounted on an electric motor case 55d.

- 20 When the centrifugal clutch 67 is turned on, a drive force is transmitted in the order of the clutch shaft 57, transmission shaft 58, transmission 70, and electric motor shaft 59, and acts to drive an axle 90 through a multi-disk type torque limiter 84 and a reduction gear mechanism 85 (which is composed of a small gear 86, a large gear 87, a small gear 88, and a large gear 89).

- 25 The multi-disk type torque limiter 84 includes a limiter inner 84a rotated together with the electric motor shaft 59, disks 84b and 84c (the disk 84b is mounted on the limiter inner 84a and the disk 84c is mounted on the following limiter outer 84d), a limiter outer 84d, and a spring 84e. The small gear 86 is integrated with the limiter outer 84d.

- 30 A power is transmitted in the order of the limiter inner 84 → disk 84b → disk 84c → limiter outer 84d → small gear 86. If an excess torque over a predetermined value is applied, there occurs a slip between the disks 84b and 84c for protecting the components of the multi-disk torque limiter 84. The predetermined torque can be set by the spring 84e.

35 The one-way clutch outer 64 for a starter acts as a flywheel and has a balance weight 91 for taking an engine balance. The one-way clutch outer 64 constitutes the one-way

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clutch 63 for transmitting rotation of a starter in combination with the one-way clutch inner 65.

When a starter driven gear 93 is rotated by a starter (not shown), the centrifugal clutch inner 68 is rotated through the one-way clutch inner 65 and the one-way clutch outer 64, to start operation of the engine. And, when the one-way clutch outer 64 is rotated at a higher speed, it is separated from the clutch inner 65 on the low speed side.

Figs. 4 and 5 are views illustrating a configuration and a function of the cone type continuously variable transmission according to the present invention.

In the state of the cone 72 shown in Fig. 4, a relationship of $R1 > R2$ is given, where $R1$ is a distance from the center of a cone supporting shaft 74 to the inner disk 71, that is, a rotational radius of the inner disk 71, and $R2$ is a distance from the center of a core supporting shaft 74 to the outer cup 73, that is, a rotational radius of the outer cup 73.

The cone 72 is rotated at a low speed because a large diameter portion (radius: $R1$) of the cone 72 is rotated by the inner disk 71, and the outer cup 73 is rotated at a low speed because the outer cup 73 is rotated by the small diameter portion (radius: $R2$) of the cone 72.

When rotation of the outer cup 73 is higher than that of the electric motor shaft 59, a power is transmitted from the outer cup 73 to the electric motor shaft 59 through the one-way clutch 83.

Reference numeral 70a indicates a cam ball for pushing the outer cup 73 leftward along with rotation of the outer cup 73. Such a pushing action allows a contact pressure to be applied between the outer cup 73 and the cone 72.

Reference numerals 70b, 70c and 70d indicate oil seals. The oil seals 70b and 70c form a closed space for accumulating transmission oil in the transmission 70, and the oil seal 70d cuts off oil on the crank case 55b side (on the left side of the figure). Accordingly, there is no fear that oil in the crank case is mixed with transmission oil.

In the state of the cone 72 shown in Fig. 5, a relationship of $R3 > R4$ is given, where $R3$ is a distance from the center of

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the cone supporting shaft 74 to the inner disk 71, that is, a rotational radius of the inner disk 71, and R_4 is a distance from the cone supporting shaft 74 to the outer cup 73, that is, a rotational radius of the outer cup 73.

5 The cone 72 is rotated at a high speed because the small diameter portion (radius: R_3) of the cone 72 is rotated by the inner disk 71, and the outer cup 73 is rotated at a high speed because the outer cup 73 is rotated by the large diameter portion (radius: R_4) of the cone 72.

10 By moving the cone 72 as shown in Figs. 4 and 5, the transmission 70 transmits rotation at a reduced speed, a uniform speed, or an increased speed.

For this purpose, as shown in Fig. 4, a control gear 97 is shifted by the transmission control motor 95 through gears 96a, 15 96b and 96c. The control gear 97 has a trapezoid female thread portion 99 formed on its boss portion. The trapezoid female thread portion 99 is meshed with a trapezoid male thread portion 98 fixed on the case 55 side. The control gear 97 is shifted leftward in the figure by spiral motion of the trapezoid female 20 thread portion 99. The leftward shift of the control gear 97 moves the cone 72 leftward in the figure together with the cone supporting shaft 74 into the state shown in Fig. 5.

It is important that both the trapezoid male thread portion 98 and the trapezoid female thread portion 99 are provided not 25 on the outer cup 73 side but on the inner disk 71 side. The cone 72 is pushed leftward in the figure by reaction of the outer cup 73. As a result, the control gear 97 is applied with a force in the direction shown by an arrow "1", that is, in the direction from the low speed side to the high speed side. With 30 the configuration in this embodiment, the cone 72 can be shifted to the high speed side with a small torque. This is effective to lower the capacity of the transmission control motor 95.

A lubricating system will be describe below.

Fig. 6 is a view illustrating an engine lubricating system 35 according to the present invention, in which flow of oil is indicated by an arrow.

The power unit case 55 has a lower oil tank 101 disposed at its lower portion, and an upper oil tank 102 disposed at its

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upper portion. A first oil pump 103, a second oil pump 104, and a third oil pump 105 are coaxially disposed on one end side (right end side) of the crank shaft 56. First, oil in the lower oil tank 101 is pumped by the first oil pump 103 through a
5 strainer 106 and a first oil passage 107, and is supplied to the upper oil tank 102 through a second oil passage 108.

The oil in the upper oil tank 102 flows to the second oil pump 104 through a third oil passage 109 and is pressurized by the second oil pump 104. The oil thus pressurized lubricates
10 main journal portions 56a, a connecting rod large end portion 56b, and others (particularly, a valve chamber not shown) through a forth oil passage 111, a filter 112, and a fifth oil passage 113, and returns to the lower oil tank 101. In this figure, reference numeral 112a indicates a filter cover.

15 Fig. 7 is a view illustrating a transmission lubricating system according to the present invention. Referring to Fig. 7, transmission oil is pumped from as transmission oil tank 115 additionally provided on a lower portion of the power unit case 55 by the third oil pump 105 through a six oil passage 116,
20 being fed to the transmission shaft 58 through a seventh oil passage 117, and is supplied to the transmission 70 through and oil passage 118 in the transmission shaft 58. The oil is then returns to the transmission oil tank 115 in the direction shown by an arrow in the figure, and is pumped by the third oil pump
25 105 through a strainer 119.

Fig. 8 is a front view of the power unit, showing a cam shaft drive mechanism as a valve drive mechanism according to the present invention.

Referring to Fig. 8, the left crank case 55a is mounted on
30 the right side of a cylinder block 129b integrated with the right crank case 55b, and the electric motor 80 is disposed higher than the crank shaft 56. A cylinder head 129H is mounted on the left side of the cylinder block 129B. The muffler 21 is mounted at the leading end of the exhaust pipe 19
35 extending from the cylinder head 129H. An intake manifold 129M extending from the air cleaner 18 on the upper left side (and on the back side of the figure) is connected to the cylinder head 129H through a carburetor 129C. Reference numeral 129S

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indicates a starter motor mounting hole.

In Fig. 8, since a belt cover 79 is removed, there can be seen, from the front side of the power unit 15, a cam shaft drive mechanism 120 as the valve drive mechanism composed of a cam shaft drive pulley 121, a belt 12, an intake side cam shaft pulley 123, an exhaust side cam shaft pulley 124, and a tensioner 125.

As is apparent from Fig. 8, since the cylinder is disposed in the width direction of the vehicular body with its cylinder axis 126 substantially in the horizontal direction (for example, a tilt angle with respect to the ground is set at $+10^\circ$), the center of gravity of the vehicle is lowered and also the cylinder length can be set within the vehicular width. This increased the degree of design of the vehicle.

The transmission 70 may be of an epicycle reduction gear type.

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

The present invention having the above arrangement provides the following advantages:

According to the invention described in claim 1, since a transmission shaft and an electric motor shaft are disposed in series in the longitudinal direction of a vehicular body, the direction of a force applied to a power unit case becomes simple. This reduces a loss of power transmission and facilitates the design of the power unit case. Concretely, the power unit case can be designed such that the rigidity is high in the direction where the force is applied and the rigidity is low in the direction where the force is not applied; and consequently, the power unit case can be reduced in weight and also be made compact as a whole in proportional to simplification of the force applied to the power unit case.

According to the invention described in claim 2, a clutch shaft is integrally connected to the transmission shaft, a one-way clutch is held by the transmission shaft, and a starter one-way clutch and a centrifugal clutch are held by the clutch shaft. Accordingly, the components for transmitting a drive force can be closely disposed, leading to compactness of the

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power unit.

According to the invention described in claim 3, the power unit is swingably mounted, together with a rear wheel, on a main frame.

- 5 With this configuration, since the power unit can be significantly reduced in weight and also the power unit is swung together with the rear wheel, the unsprung weight can be reduced and the steering stability can be enhanced.

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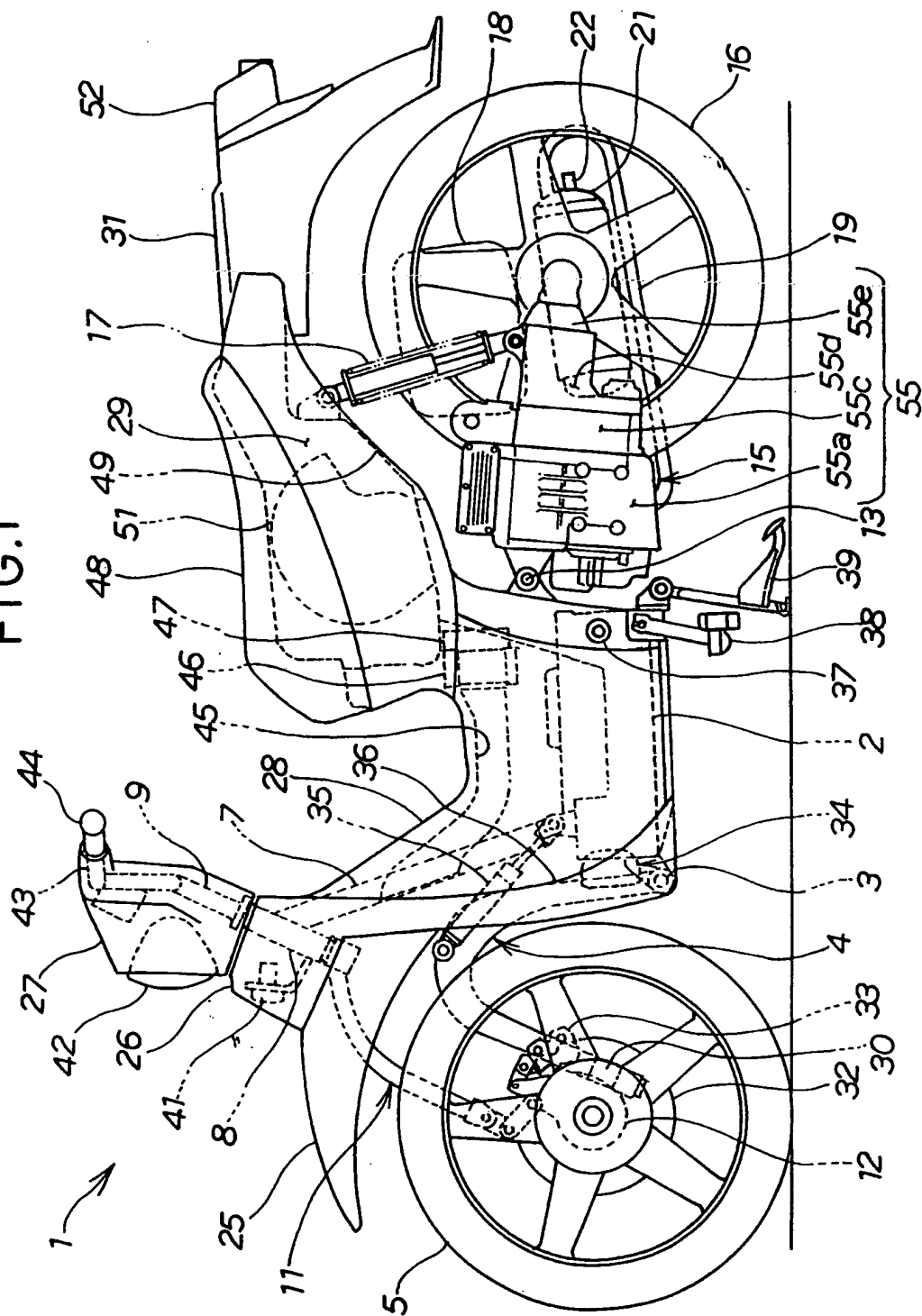
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CLAIMS

1. A motorcycle in which an engine and an electric motor are provided as a power unit and an engine output and an electric motor output are transmitted to a drive wheel through a transmission shaft and an electric motor shaft, respectively, characterized in that said transmission shaft and said electric motor shaft are coaxially disposed in series in the longitudinal direction of a vehicular body and in parallel to a crank shaft of the engine.
2. A motorcycle according to claim 1, wherein said transmission shaft holds a one-way clutch and a clutch shaft holding a one-way clutch shaft holding a starter one-way clutch and a centrifugal clutch is provided integrally with said transmission shaft.
3. A motorcycle according to claim 1, wherein said power unit is swingably mounted, together with a rear wheel, on a main frame.

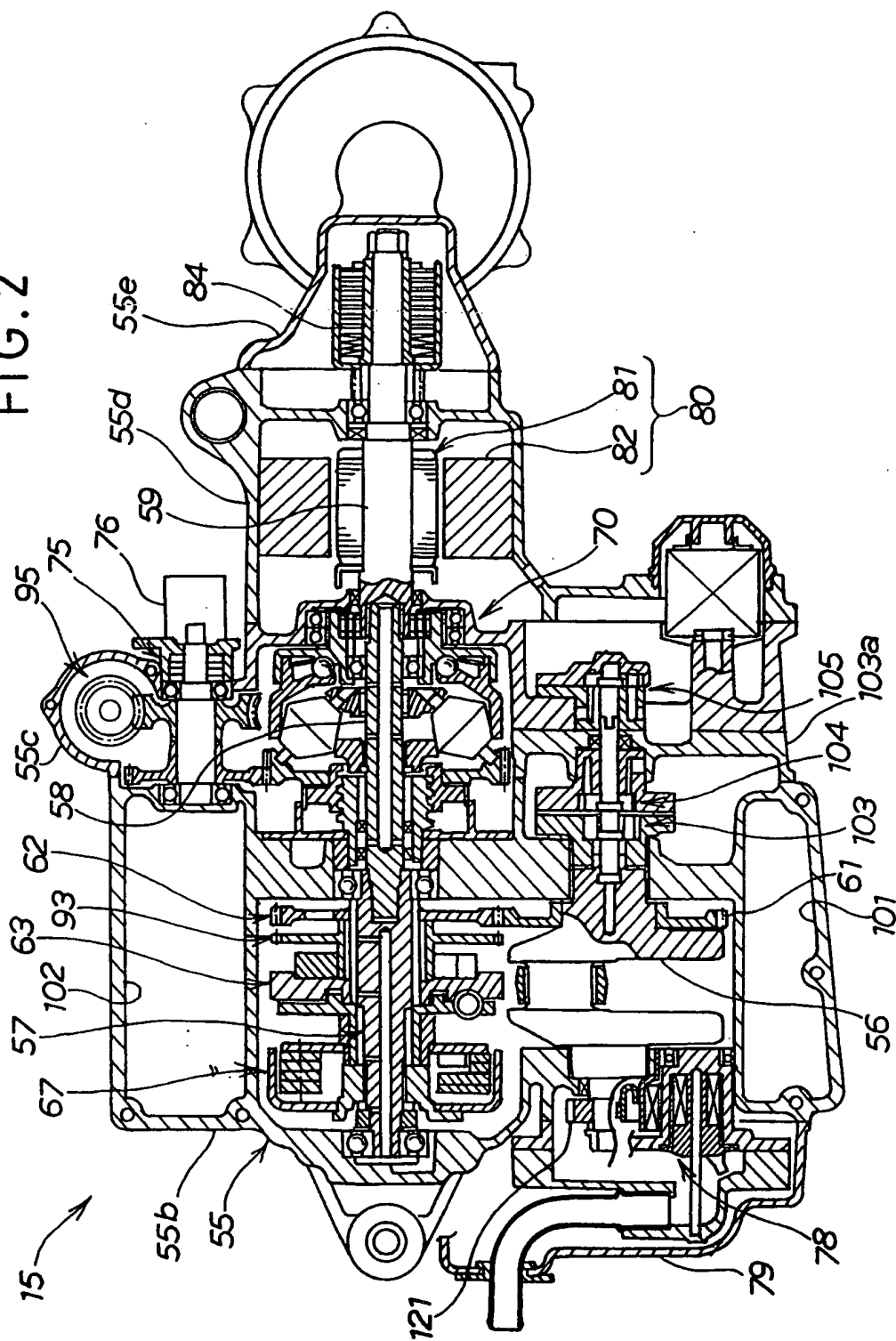
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FIG.1



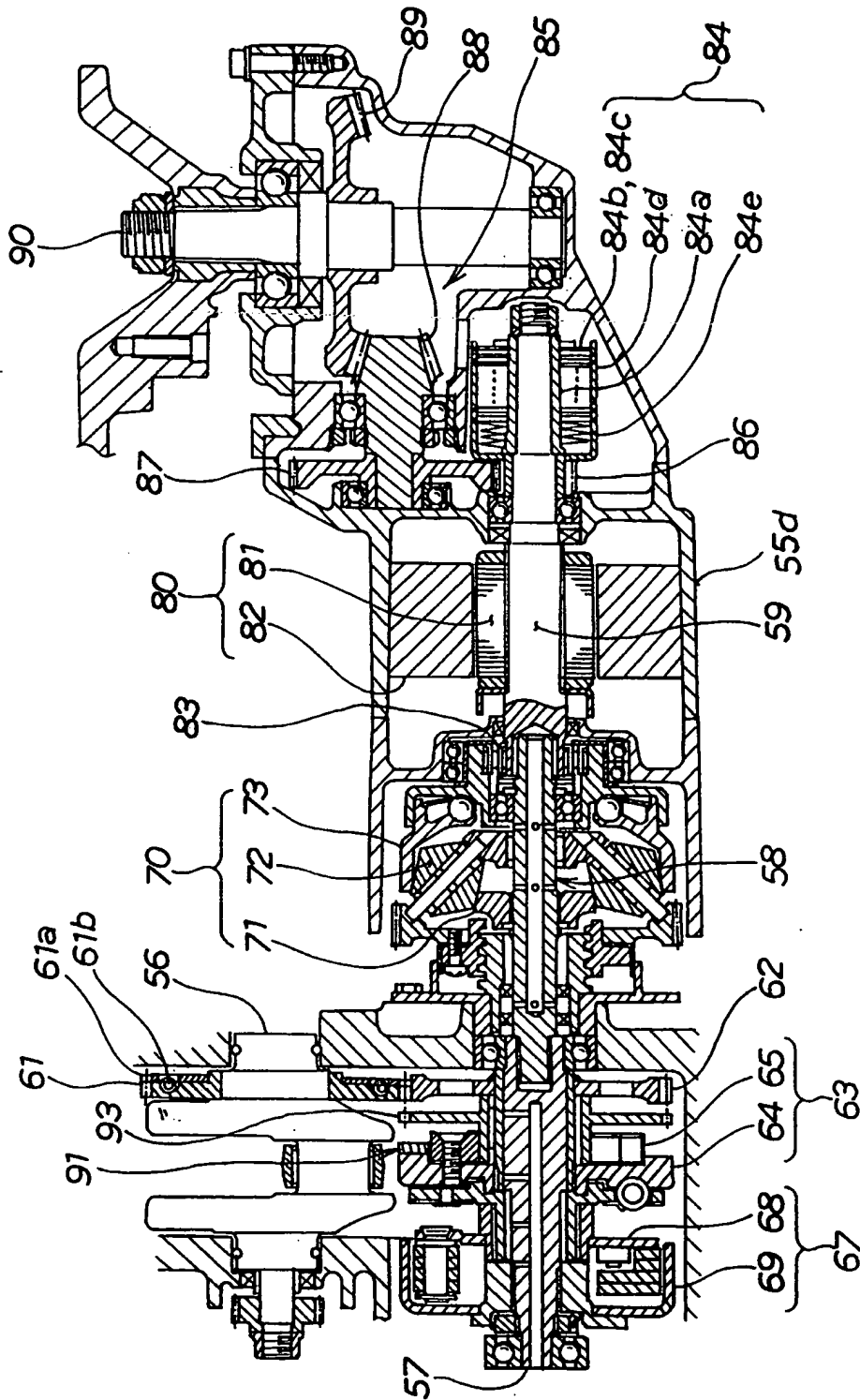
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FIG. 2



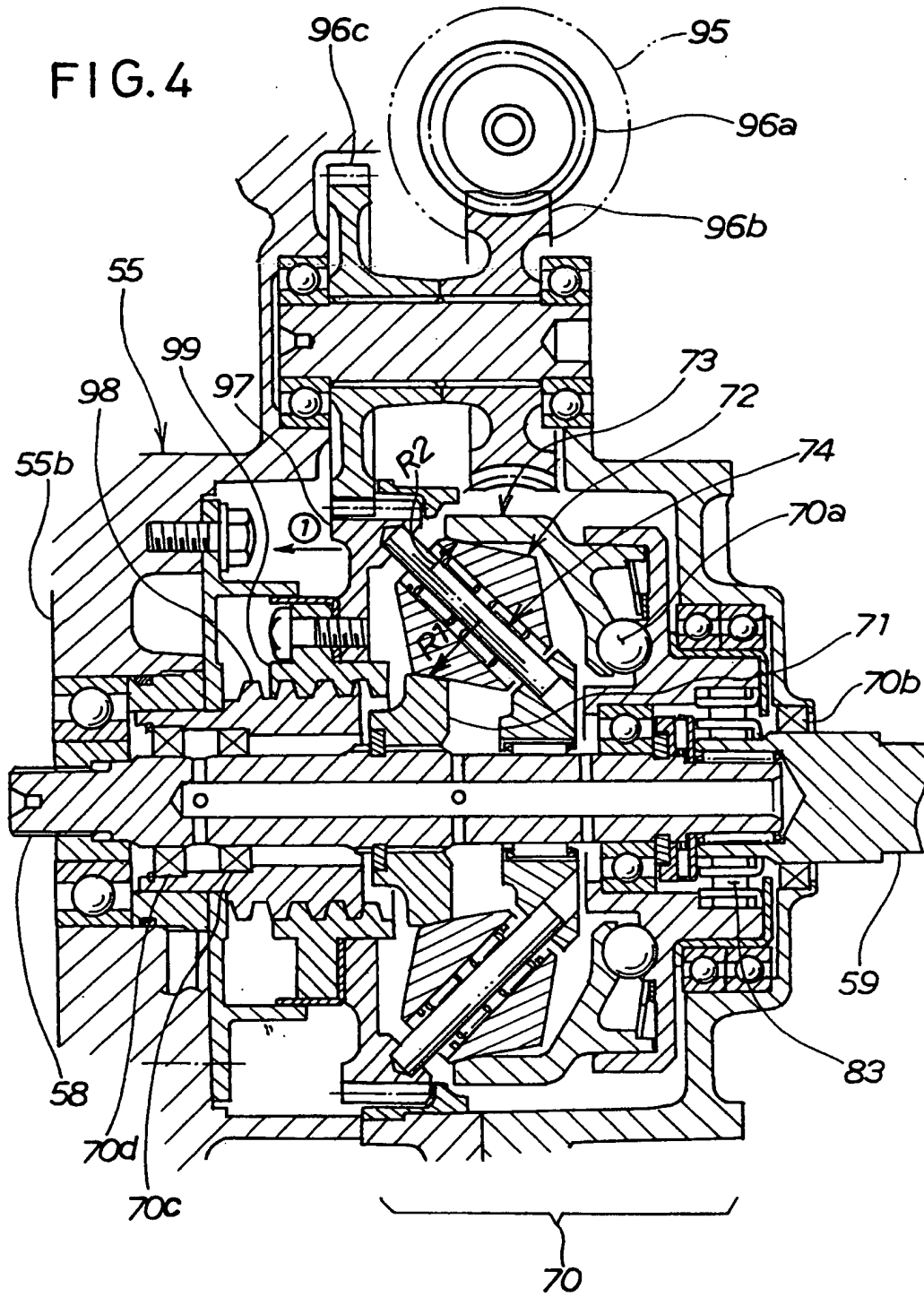
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FIG. 3



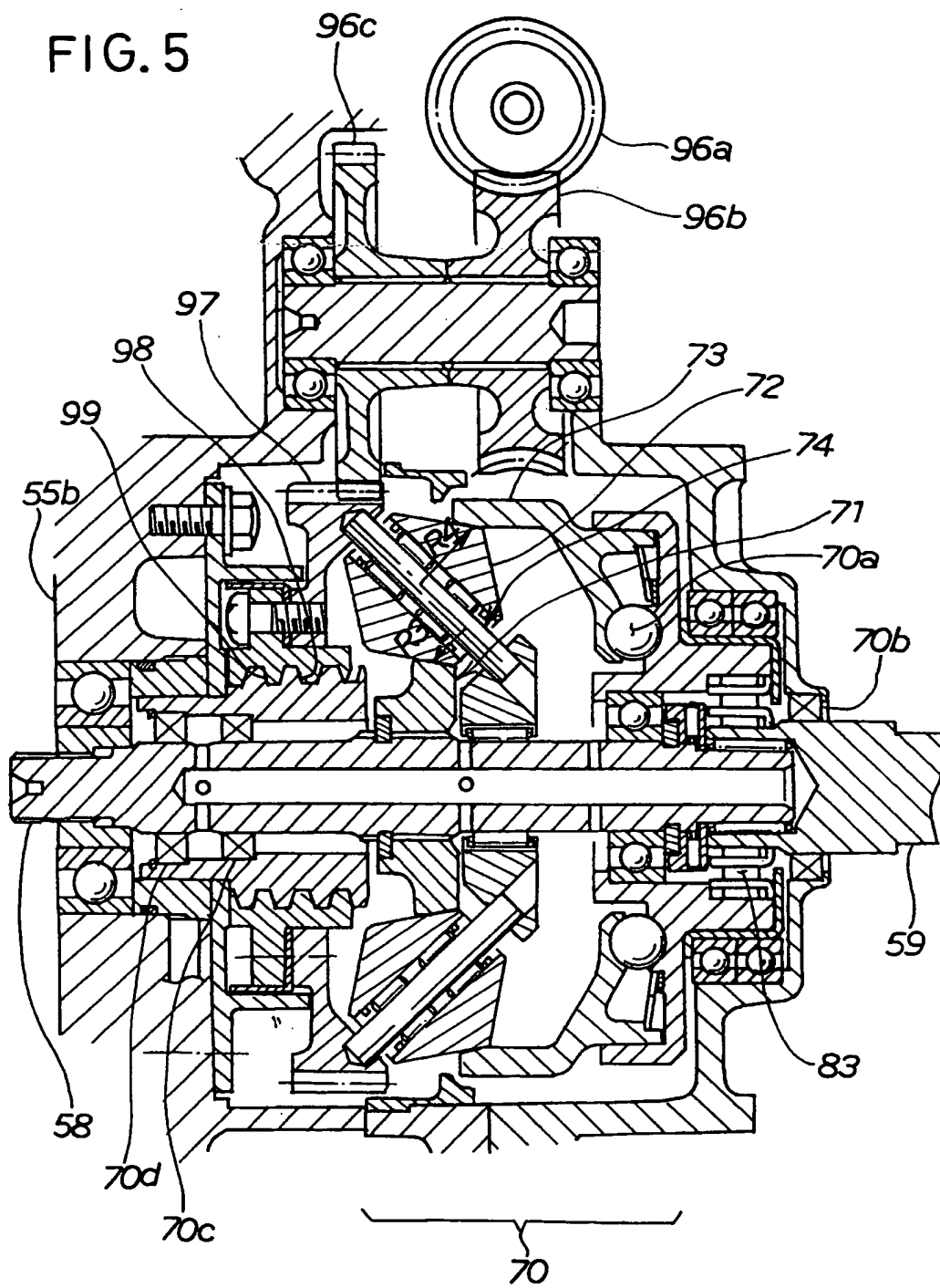
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FIG.4



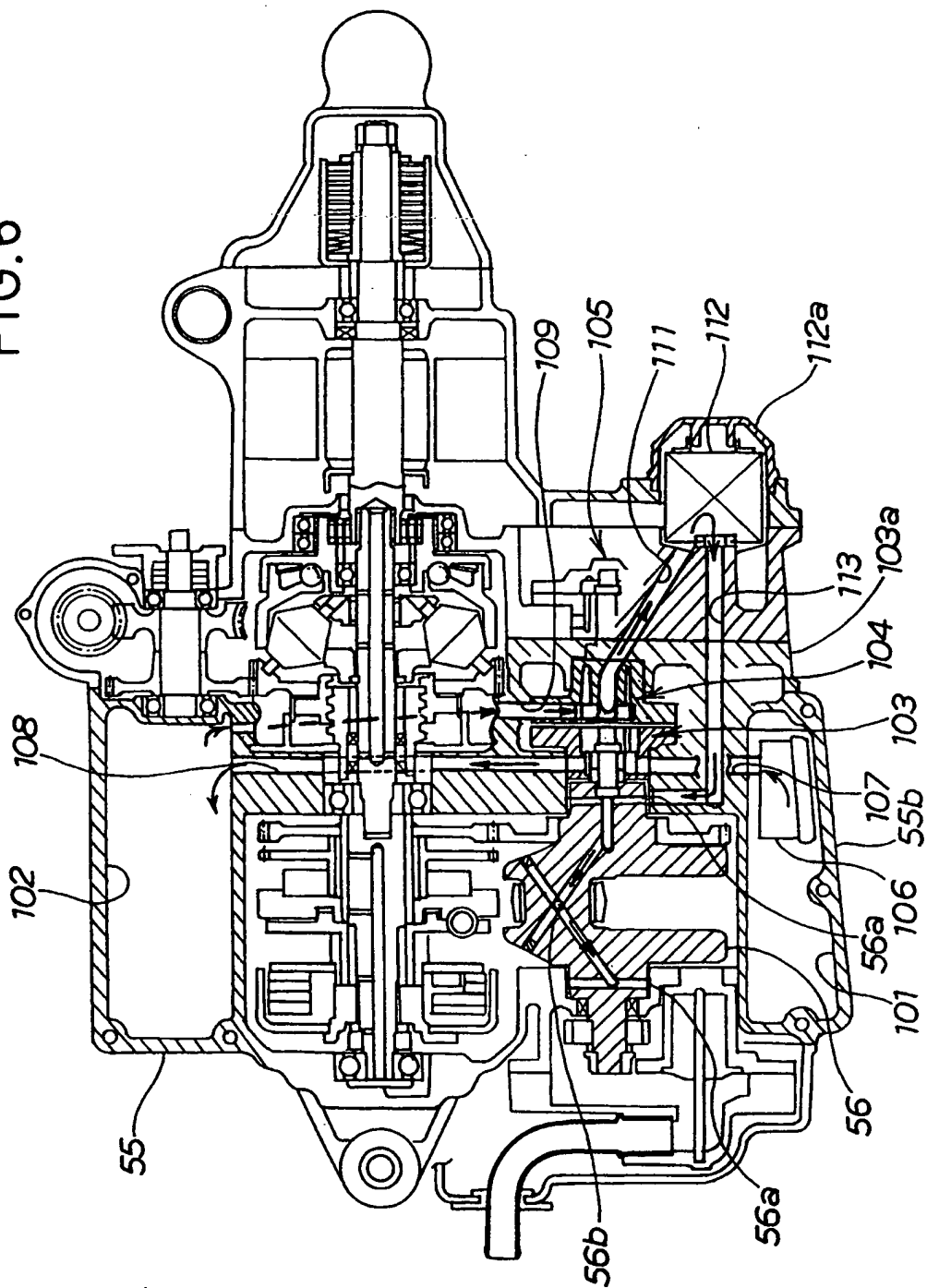
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FIG. 5



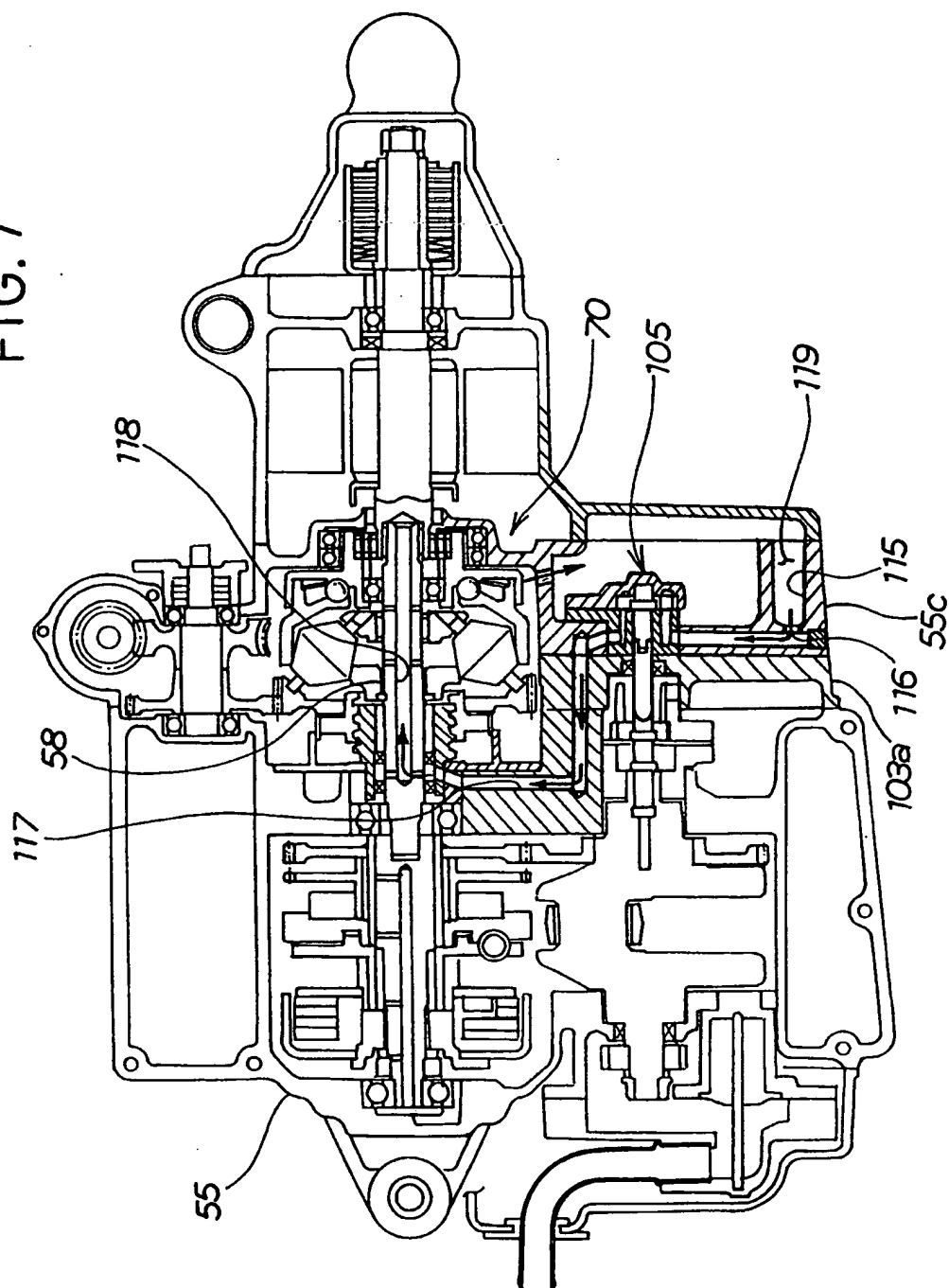
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FIG. 6



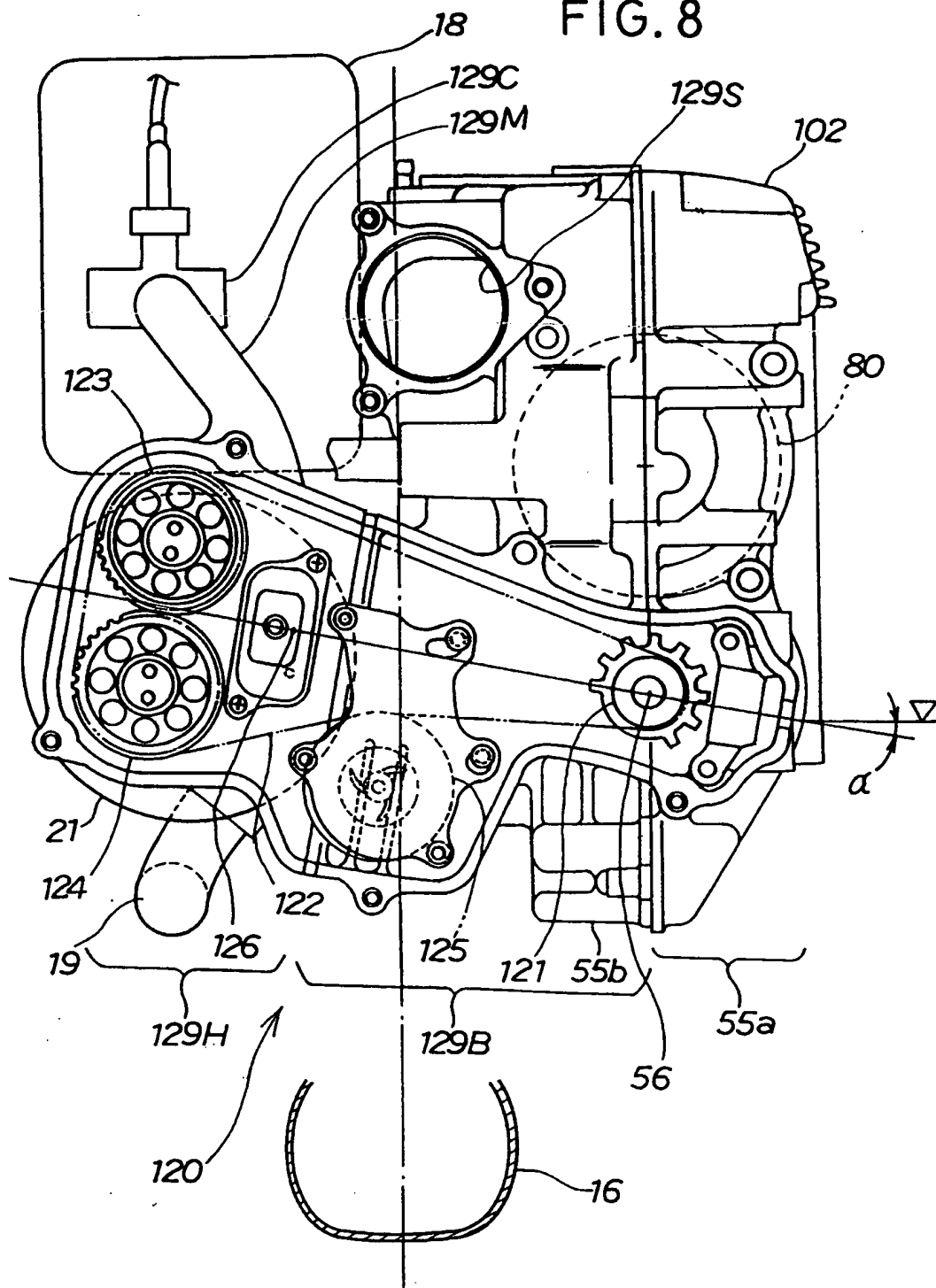
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FIG. 7



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FIG. 8



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/JP 98/04017

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 6 B62M23/02 B60K6/02

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 B62M B60K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 096, no. 011, 29 November 1996 & JP 08 175477 A (YAMAHA MOTOR CO LTD), 9 July 1996 cited in the application see abstract; figures	1,3
Y	EP 0 727 332 A (FICHTEL & SACHS AG) 21 August 1996 see claims; figures	1,3
A	EP 0 445 873 A (PIAGGIO VEICOLI EUROPEI S.P.A.) 11 September 1991 see claims; figures -- -/--	1-3

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

19 November 1998

Date of mailing of the international search report

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 009, no. 238 (M-416), 25 September 1985 & JP 60 092929 A (YAMAHA HATSUDOKI KK), 24 May 1985 see abstract; figures 1-3</p>	1

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/JP 98/04017

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